

Call to Order

The Tama County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at the Tama County Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Chair, Wrage.

Board Members present: Adolphs, Kenkel, Wacha, and Wrage.

Staff Members present: Mayne, Horne, Conrad, Genaw.

Public present: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel, to approve the minutes as recorded, carried, all voting aye.

Approval of Bills

Bills were presented to be paid from the month of June 2023. It was moved by Keenan, seconded by Wrage, to approve bills, carried, all voting aye.

Reports & Updates

Public Comment: N/A

Environmental Education Report: Delivered 18 programs in June. Total attendance of 603 for month of June. Most attended: corn carnival, free fishing day, 4H summer camp at pilgrim heights, owls talk at Tama Library. Other programs included nursing home visits, preschool visits, library reading program talks, talk for women, land, and legacy, and monthly programs like knee high naturalist and eco artists. Currently preparing for this month's programs including outdoor adventure camp, public programs at TF Clark and Wolf Creek Trail, Project Aware, county fair, and critter camp. Starting OWLS programs again in September, have been contacting speakers to arrange guest speakers. Made program guide for schools and other contacts to use and put on websites. Made press release for OCLAP opening, have been updating facebook and websites continuously with news.

Park Officer's Report: Assisted with corn carnival parade and delivered youth talk for NRA. Performed

construction walkthrough at OCLAP. Seeded food plot in public hunting area, mowed burn breaks, cut and cleaned trail at TF Clark, placed fish structure at OCLAP, and stocked fish into lake and silt ponds at OCLAP. Built beach parking lot, placed signs, mulched old beach playground, and opened OCLAP to public. Attended safety meeting. Took trail rock to Wolf Creek Trail. Cleaned bathrooms and started construction on campers hill at OCLAP.

Maintenance Report: Serviced 2022 Ford. Added rock to Wolf creek trail. Concrete completed in boat house. DNR stocked catfish and largemouth bass fry. Did final walk-through for lake restoration. Attended safety meeting.

Prepared for opening of OCLAP:

- finished shower house touch up painting and showers/ sinks
- turned power on and checking camping pedestals N/S loop
- parking barriers/ post in beach parking lot
- replaced all road signs removed to lake restoration
- Put speed bumps back
- Bladed parking lots
- Painted/ fixed picnic tables and put tables back
- Put trail gates back up and put-up trail markers
- Trimmed few low limbs along roads
- Sprayed parking lots and back in sites
- Side arm mowed road sides in primitive camping
- All the bathrooms cleaned and new light bulbs
- Put fire rings back

F-150 got new tires. Got Clarks parks/ Ike's/ Reining ready for the 4th of July mowed/weed eaten. Mowed and sprayed wolf creek.

Director's Report: Met with Deb Ellenbecker (for memorial bench). Ordered bench for Ellenbecker memorial at OCLAP. Attended Board of Supervisors meeting. Met with dumpster guy, RACOM Crew 2000, Project Aware, and post-construction meeting. Transferred funds to LAD. Attended training by Mint Chip Labs for website.

Old Business

Lake Restoration Update: Final walkthrough was completed and park reopened. Majority of costs paid off. Fish stocked. Received extension on fish habitat grant. Remaining money will be spent on artificial reef structures.

Camper's Hill Update: New lines for power are in progress. Water lines completed. Remaining ADA pavers and fire ring will be installed at camper's hill.

Nature Center Deck: Composite decking options considered.

Transition of Chair Position: Wrage resigning. John Keenan will be stepping up as chair. Carolyn Adolphs will be vice chair.

Floor Discussion

Floor Discussion: Sleepy Creek tannery may be good contact for purchasing new hides and taxidermy if needed. Wrage can also be contacted for pelts. Camping rates were discussed and will need to be updated for 2024. Desire to have cabin as a future project at OCLAP discussed. Need for plan for Oxbow Bottoms discussed. Design for far edge of lake discussed. Desire to re-install flag pole also discussed.

Adjourn

With no further discussion items, it was motioned by Adolphs, seconded by Kenkel to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Board Chair

Tama County Conservation Board